

Trails Assessment Working Group

Meeting Notes

The second meeting of the Trails Assessment Working Group was convened on January 27, 2004 at 10 AM in the Gila Conference Room at TA-21 –210. Those attending were:

Kirt Anderson	PM-1	5-2335	kirt@lanl.gov
Paul Baca	Santa Clara Pueblo	753-7326	pbaca@santaclarapueblo.org
Carey Bare	IFC	7-3349	cbare@lanl.gov
Cassandra Begay	DOE/Env protection	5-4246	cbegay@doeal.gov
Kim Birdsall	RRES-RS	5-3486	kimb@lanl.gov
David Keller	RRES ECO	7-7037	dckeller@lanl.gov
Vicki Loucks	NNSA DOE	7-6819	vloucks@doeal.gov
Craig Martin	LA County	662-8179	martinc@lac.losalamos.nm.us
W. Bruce Masse	RRES ECO	5-9149	wbmasse@lanl.gov
Ellen McGehee	RRES ECO	5-1722	emcgehee@lanl.gov
Michael McKay	D-1	7-6227	mdm@lanl.gov
Dominic Naranjo	Santa Clara Pueblo	753-7326	dnaranjo@santaclarapueblo.org
Carl Newman	Bandelier NPS	672-3861	carl_newman@nps.gov
Dan Pava	RRES ECO	7-7360	dpava@lanl.gov
Paul Schumann	RRES DO	7-5840	schumannp@lanl.gov
Jim Stein	CER-1	7-1635	jstein@lanl.gov
John Stetson	NNSA contractor	7-0575	jstetson@doeal.gov
Bill Stoner	Bandelier NPS	672-3861	williamstoner@nps.gov
Elmer Torres	CER-1	7-3194	ectorres@lanl.gov

Summary of Meeting:

Briefings by each member present were made to the working group. **Bill Stoner** of Bandelier noted that there has been damage to cultural sites due to trails use and equestrian use on trails near Pajarito Acres (TA-71). **Ellen McGehee** reported on her work on preparing an historic trails inventory for the National Register. Some trails (including trails within LANL) have been nominated. She also mentioned that there is interest at the County in developing a canyon rim trail south of downtown above Los Alamos Canyon. **David Keller** explained that some trails need to be closed at certain times of the year to determine whether Mexican Spotted Owls or Bald Eagles are present. **Bruce Masse** suggested that the working group draft a priority list of the trails or segments of trails that traverse or lead to sensitive cultural areas. **John Stetson** noted that there is confusion about some popular trails such as those south of the LASO building because of fences recently installed, and suggested that signs could be posted to explain the status of these de facto trail closures. **Craig Martin** mentioned that there are some trails not shown on the map and he talked about the proposed Canyon Rim Trail in

context to the draft downtown plan. **Jim Stein** stated that there could be security issues associated with Forest Service trails access from West Jemez Road that is part of the Security Perimeter Project, and **Kirt Anderson** added that security considerations needed to be understood by the group. **Dan Pava** noted the **Steve Garcia** of S-1 could not attend today's meeting but will participate in future meetings. **Elmer Torres** would like the working group to work with the Pueblos to identify priorities for putting up signs to address concerns about trespassing. There are lots of potential release sites (PRS's) at LANL, and some areas such as canyon bottoms where there might be trails could be a concern, noted **Kim Birdsall**. Enforcement is a tool that can be used to address many of the issues related to trails use, said **Carey Bare**, who also reminded the group that residents have used these trails since the Laboratory was established. **Paul Baca** told the group that he would brief the new governor of Santa Clara on the working group and suggested that a meeting be set up with Dan or others to do this. There are some trails shown on the map that aren't considered by Bandelier to be trails while other major trails are not shown, according to **Carl Newman**, who offered that the Park Service had trail marking equipment and could even post some signs in sensitive areas identified by the working group. Bandelier would be interested in expanding the contract to patrol certain areas, he noted.

Mike McKay of D-1 was introduced. He is a statistician who will help prepare a survey of trails users. Mike explained that a survey should be designed to provide two-way communication.

Paul Schumann reported that he is working with others to make the RRES web site more useful and that trails information will be part of this effort. He also suggested that the working group adopt a public involvement rather than public relations focus and mentioned that the International Association for Public Participation offers guidance now being used by RRES division.

Dan Pava shared information from LASO attorney Lisa Cummings that indicates there already exists precedent and a framework for using volunteers by Federal land management agencies.

Action Items:

Dan will work with Lisa Cummings at LASO and LANL attorneys on the trail volunteers issue. Management support is the key to moving forward with this initiative.

A letter will be sent out informing new Pueblo leaders of the Trails Assessment Working Group efforts and inviting them to participate. Elmer Torres will work this.

Dan has been working on identifying and inviting a safety representative to participate on the working group.

John Stetson, Craig Martin, Dan Pava and others as necessary will meet to determine if signs are appropriate for posting on the fence south of the LASO building.

Kim Birdsall will coordinate with Dave Keller and other RRES-ECO staff to overlay PRS data on constraints maps that can be used to determine where there are issues with trails use.

All working group members are tasked with preparing to prioritize their issues relating geographically to trails, trail segments and/or areas of concern using a “stop light” color scheme (red being highest priority and concern, yellow intermediate and green lowest). The next meeting will be a workshop where working group members will share information so that it can be represented on a map that can be used by the group to begin making priorities and recommendations for a work program.

Thanks to Sandi Copeland of RRES-ECO for taking notes during the meeting!

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 PM (until approximately 4 PM) on Tuesday February 24 at the Ecology Group first floor Gila conference room. *Please note this differs from our initial desire to meet at 10 that day.*

The goals of the trails management program are:

- Reduce the risk of damage and injury to property, human life, and health, and sensitive natural and cultural resources from social trail use at LANL
- Facilitate the establishment of a safe, viable network of linked trails across the Pajarito Plateau that traverse land holdings of various private and government entities for recreational use and for alternate transportation purposes without posing a threat to DOE and NNSA mission support work at LANL or disrupting LANL operations.
- Maintain the security of LANL operations.
- Respect the wishes of local Pueblos to maintain access to traditional cultural properties (TCPs) by Pueblo members while also preventing unauthorized public access to adjacent Pueblo lands and other lands identified as both religious and culturally sensitive areas to Native American communities.
- Adapt trail use at LANL to changing conditions and situations in a responsive manner.